



Slough Borough Council.

ANNUAL REPORT

of the

Medical Officer of Health

V. A. T. SPONG,

M.B., B.S.(Lond.), D.P.H.(Lond.), M.S.C.S.(Eng.), L.R.C.P.(Lond.).

For the Year 1938

including the

Annual Report of the Chief
Sanitary Inspector,

JOHN DEMPSEY, C.R.S.I., C.M.I.



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ANNUAL REPORT OF THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH FOR 1938.

TO THE CHAIRMAN AND MEMBERS OF THE
SLOUGH BOROUGH COUNCIL.

LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,

I beg to present my report on the Sanitary circumstances and administration and the Vital Statistics of your district for the year 1938.

I regret that in common with many other Public Health Departments, it has not been found possible to prepare this report earlier, owing to the great additional burden of work throughout 1939 in connection with the organisation of the A.R.P. Casualty Services and Evacuation. Furthermore, as Medical Officer of Health of three District Councils there are three separate and distinct Annual Reports to compile each year.

Owing to the late appearance of this report, it must be appreciated that it can serve only as a record for the year under review and that changes which have taken place since 1938 render out of date certain of the information contained therein.

SECTION A.

Statistics and Social Conditions of the Area.

Area (acres)	...	...	...	...	...	6,276
Population (Registrar-General's estimate)						
mid-year 1938	...	...	...	...	...	50,620
Number of Inhabited Houses, end of 1938	...					15,368
Rateable Value, 31st Dec., 1938	...	...	...	...	£	413,958
Sum represented by a penny rate (estimated)						£1,740

VITAL STATISTICS.

Live Births.

TOTAL	992	Male	531	Female	461
Legitimate	942	„	509	„	433
Illegitimate	50	„	22	„	28
Birth rate per 1000 population		...	...	...	19.6
National rate	„	„	...	...	15.1

Still Births.

TOTAL	35	Male	19	Female	16
Legitimate	35	„	19	„	16
Illegitimate	0	„	0	„	0
Still-birth rate per 1000 population		...	...	...	0.69
National rate	„	„	...	...	0.60
Still-birth rate per 1000 total Births		...	...	...	34.08

Deaths.

TOTAL	422	Male	198	Female	224
Death rate per 1000 population		...	...	...	8.3
National rate	„	„	...	...	11.6
Death rate corrected for age and sex distribution		...	...	...	8.9

Number of women dying in or in consequence of Childbirth—

(a) From Sepsis	...	...	...	...	1
(b) From other causes	...	...	...	...	6

Death rates from Puerperal causes per 1000 Live Births—

(a) From Sepsis	...	1.008	National rate	0.89
(b) From other causes	...	6.05	National rate	2.19
(c) TOTAL	...	7.058	National rate	3.08

Death rates from Puerperal causes per 1000 total Births
(i.e. Live and Still Births)—

(a) From Sepsis	...	0.97	National rate	0.86
(b) From other causes	...	5.84	National rate	2.11
(c) TOTAL	...	6.81	National rate	2.97

Death of Infants under one year of age—

TOTAL	44	Male	25	Female	19
Legitimate	39	„	23	„	16
Illegitimate	5	„	2	„	3

Death rate of Infants under one year of age—

All Infants per 1000 Live Births	...	...	...	44.3
National rate	„	„	...	53.0
Legitimate Infants per 1000 Legitimate Births	...	...	...	41.4
Illegitimate Infants per 1000 Illegitimate Births	100.0

Deaths from Measles (all ages)—

TOTAL	2	Male	0	Female	2
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Deaths from Whooping Cough (all ages)—

TOTAL	3	Male	1	Female	2
-------	---	------	---	--------	---

Deaths from Diarrhoea (under 2)—

TOTAL	3	Male	2	Female	1
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Causes of Death.

				Male	Female
	ALL CAUSES			422	198
1	Typhoid and paratyphoid fevers	0	0
2	Measles	...	...	0	2
3	Scarlet fever	...	...	0	0
4	Whooping Cough	...	...	1	2
5	Diphtheria	...	...	2	2
6	Influenza	...	...	8	4
7	Encephalitis lethargica	...	...	3	0
8	Cerebro-spinal fever	...	...	0	0
9	Tuberculosis of respiratory system	...	...	6	14
10	Other Tuberculosis diseases	...	...	2	1
11	Syphilis	...	...	0	0
12	General paralysis of the insane, tabes dorsalis	...	...	1	0
13	Cancer, malignant disease	...	...	26	35
14	Diabetes	...	...	1	6
15	Cerebral Haemorrhage, etc.	...	...	5	13
16	Heart disease	...	...	39	38
17	Aneurysm	...	...	3	1
18	Other circulatory diseases	...	...	11	12
19	Bronchitis	...	...	6	7
20	Pneumonia (all forms)	...	...	17	11
21	Other respiratory diseases	...	...	3	1
22	Peptic ulcer	...	...	3	1
23	Diarrhoea, etc. (under 2 years)	...	...	2	1
24	Appendicitis	...	...	5	2
25	Cirrhosis of liver	...	...	0	0
26	Other diseases of liver, etc.	...	...	0	1
27	Other digestive diseases	...	...	10	6
28	Acute and chronic nephritis	...	...	5	2
29	Puerperal sepsis	...	...	0	1
30	Other puerperal causes	...	...	0	6
31	Congenital debility, premature birth, malformations, etc.	...	...	14	13
32	Senility	...	...	3	7
33	Suicide	...	...	4	2
34	Other violence	...	...	5	8
35	Other defined diseases	...	...	21	14
36	Causes ill-defined or unknown	...	...	0	0

SECTION B.

General Provision of Health Services for the Area.

(1) Public Health Officers of the Authority.

(a) MEDICAL.

Medical Officer of Health : V. A. T. Spong, M.B., B.S.(Lond.), D.P.H.(Lond.). M.R.C.S.(Eng.), L.R.C.P.(Lond.), also Medical Officer of Health for Eton Urban and Eton Rural Districts; Assistant County Medical Officer, Bucks County Council; Medical Superintendent, Eton Joint Isolation Hospital. Whole time.

F. M. Day, M.R.C.S.(Eng.), L.R.C.P.(Lond.), D.P.H.(Lond.), D.T.M., Assistant County Medical Officer, Bucks County Council, deputies for the Medical Officer of Health during his absence on annual leave and on alternate week-ends and evenings of alternate weeks. In return for these services the Medical Officer of Health acts as Assistant County M.O. for School and Maternity Child Welfare Work in Slough.

(b) OTHERS.

Chief Sanitary Inspector : J. Dempsey, C.R.S.I., C.M.I.

Additional Sanitary Inspectors : E. G. Wingate, C.R.S.I., C.M.I.; J. A. Quigg, C.R.S.I., C.M.I.; G. V. Jinks, C.R.S.I., C.M.I.

Shorthand Typist : Miss B. Philbey.

Clerk : R. L. Barker.

(2) Nursing in the Home.

For particulars see previous Reports.

(3) Laboratory Facilities.

All Laboratory Work is carried out by the Clinical Research Association, of which the Council is a member.

During the year the following specimens were examined :—

			Positive	Negative	TOTAL
(a)	For the presence of Diphtheria Bacilli	... ...	49	370	419
(b)	For the presence of Tubercl Bacilli in sputum	... ...	25	107	132
(c)	For the Widal reaction for the Enteric fevers	... ...	0	0	0
(d)	For the presence of Meningo- coccii	... ...	2	14	16
(e)	For the presence of the Bacillus of Vincent's Angina	...	6	0	6

		Positive	Negative	TOTAL
(f) For the presence of Strepto-cocci	... ... ...	7	11	18
(g) For the presence of Dysentery Bacilli in faeces	... ...	0	0	0
(h) For the presence of Typhoid and Paratyphoid Bacilli in urine or faeces	... ...	0	2	2

(4) Legislation in Force.

See previous Reports.

(5) Hospital Services.

These have been fully described in previous reports.

(6) Ambulance Facilities.

(a) FOR INFECTIOUS CASES.

By agreement with the Eton Joint Hospital Board, Slough has the use of the Motor Ambulance, which is stationed at the Eton Joint Isolation Hospital.

(b) FOR NON-INFECTIOUS AND MATERNITY CASES.

Ambulance work is excellently carried out by the St. John Ambulance Brigade, who have three motor ambulances available for cases of sickness or accident. With the exception of a salaried ambulance driver, all are voluntary workers.

Both services are adequate. The I.D. Ambulance provided by the Eton Joint Hospital Board, of which the Borough of Slough is a constituent Authority, is available day and night for all cases of Infectious Disease. The Ambulances provided by the St. John Ambulance Brigade are also available for day and night cases.

(7) Clinics and Treatment Centres.

(a) MATERNITY AND CHILD WELFARE.

INFANT WELFARE CLINICS are held weekly at :

1. The Health Centre, Burlington Avenue, on Thursdays at 2.30, the Medical Officer attending on the 1st and 3rd Thursdays.

2. The Social Centre, Farnham Road, on Mondays at 2.30, the Medical Officer attending on the 1st, 3rd and 4th Mondays. A Toddlers' Clinic is also held on the 2nd Thursday in each month at 10 a.m.
3. The "Red Lion," Langley, on the 1st and 3rd Wednesdays at 2.30 p.m. The Medical Officer attending on the 1st Wednesday.
4. The Central Hall, Cippenham, on the 2nd and 4th Fridays, the Medical Officer attending on the 2nd Friday. This Centre was opened in 1937.

THE ANTE NATAL CLINIC is held at the Health Centre, Burlington Avenue, on the last Monday in each month at 6.30 p.m., and attended by me as Medical Officer, in addition to the Matron of the Home and the Nurses presenting cases.

(b) SCHOOL CLINICS.

Minor Ailment, Ophthalmic and Dental Clinics are held daily at the Health Centre.

The minor ailment clinic is conducted by the district nurses. The ophthalmic work is carried out by Dr. C. L. Vey, part time Ophthalmic Surgeon to the Bucks County Council, and dental treatment by a whole time Dental Surgeon.

(c) TUBERCULOSIS.

A Tuberculosis Clinic is held by Dr. L. T. Burra (County Tuberculosis Officer), on the 1st, 2nd and 4th Tuesday in each month at the Dispensary in Alpha Street, Slough.

SECTION C.

Sanitary Circumstances of the Area.

(1) WATER SUPPLY.

Apart from extension of mains, there is no change to report in the water supplies which have been fully described in earlier reports.

The supplies have been satisfactory both in quality and quantity. But in order to meet the needs of this rapidly growing Borough the Council propose sinking an additional borehole at Datchet to augment the supply.

Swimming Pools.

There are three swimming pools in the district; one, a privately owned pool, was not in use during the year.

The pools have been fully described in my reports for 1936 and 1937 and the following reports on samples of water taken from the two pools in use show that the water was in every way satisfactory for bathing.

The following are the reports of the Clinical Research Association on samples of water:

	Montem Pool Sample taken 19.7.38.	Social Centre Pool Sample taken 11.8.38.
(1) QUANTITATIVE.		
The average number of organisms, producing visible colonies on Gelatine plates incubated at 20° C. for 3 days, is found to be ...	26 per c.c.	86 per c.c.
The average number of organisms, producing visible colonies on Agar plates incubated at 37° C. for 2 days, is found to be ...	8 per c.c.	8 per c.c.
(2) QUALITATIVE.		
B. Coli	not found in 100 c.c.	present in 100 c.c. (not found in less)
	This sample is clear and bright and of a high degree of bacterial purity in which respects the water is considered suitable and safe for Swimming Bath purposes.	This sample is clear and bright and of satisfactory bacterial purity in which respects the water is considered suitable and safe for Swimming Bath purposes.

(2) ERADICATION OF BED BUGS.

(1)	Number of Council houses infested	...	29
	Number of Council houses disinfested	...	29
	Number of other houses infested	...	123
	Number of other houses disinfested	...	123
	Number of houses disinfested with Zaldecide	...	96
	Number of houses disinfested with Sulphur	...	4
	Number of houses disinfested with Hydrocyanic Acid Gas	...	23
	Number of houses disinfested by Contractor	...	24
	Number of houses disinfested by Local Authority	...	12
	Number of houses disinfested by owner or agent	...	87

(2) METHODS OF DISINFESTATION.

The majority are sprayed on two or three occasions with insecticide, the bedding being removed for steam disinfestation. Some cases are fumigated by Hydrocyanic Acid Gas.

(3) All applications for council houses are considered and an inspection of the applicant's house and contents is made prior to the keys being handed over, and if found to be verminous, the Council carry out the necessary disinfestation of bedding and furniture before they are permitted to take over possession of the Council house.

(4) The process of disinfestation is carried out by the staff of the Local Authority, with the exception of fumigations by Hydrocyanic Acid Gas, which are done by a Contractor.

In some cases where infestation in private houses was not severe, insecticide and a spray were supplied to owners who carried out the work themselves.

(3) DRAINAGE AND SEWERAGE.

The new sewage disposal works referred to in my previous Reports were completed during the year, and although allowance was made in their design for a normal increase in population based on building development of previous years, plus a reasonable increase in trade waste from the Trading Estate, it was found that owing to the phenomenal increase in population and development of factories on the Trading Estate, the volume of sewage reaching the works was greatly in excess of the amount with which they could deal. In view of this, it was found necessary for further artificial works at Cippenham to be put in hand in order to cope with the greatly increased flow.

New sewers were laid in Sutton Lane, Colnbrook, and in Chalvey Grove, in addition to a number of sewers laid by private owners in the course of developing estates in the district.

(4) (i) CLOSET ACCOMMODATION.

The closet accommodation consists of the water carriage system with the exception of 21 pail closets, and as a sewer is now available, notices are outstanding for the conversion of 11 of these to water-closets. The demolition of certain cottages under slum clearance has automatically abolished 11 privies and earth closets which were the only conveniences of this type in the district.

Cesspools are emptied by the Surveyor's Department monthly, except in cases where two or more houses drain into one common cesspool, and these are emptied when required, but only in cases where the sewer is not available. An attempt is now being made to speed up the connection to the main sewer and the abolition of cesspools, and the work is proceeding satisfactorily.

During the past year, the undermentioned cesspools have been abolished and main drainage provided.

Number of cesspools abolished :

Burnham and Cippenham	10	which drained	10	premises.
Chalvey and Langley	43	which drained	47	premises.
TOTAL	53	cesspools	57	premises.
	—		—	

Report of Chief Sanitary Inspector.

PUBLIC CLEANSING.

Refuse Removal and Disposal.

A weekly collection of house refuse is still maintained, and four fifteen cubic yard freighters with movable floors and rear loading are employed in this work.

There are approximately 16,000 houses, shops and factories on the refuse book for the purpose of collection, an increase of 450 over the preceding year.

A charge is made for the removal of trade refuse where it exceeds the normal amount of one bin, which is not charged for. The revenue derived from this source compared with the preceding year is as follows :

	1937.	1938.
Trade refuse revenue ...	£490 1s. 11d.	£490 17s. 3d.

The salvaging of metals, bottles, etc., is let out on contract, the contractors providing their own labour and haulage. Past experience has shown that as far as Slough is concerned, this is the most satisfactory arrangement.

	1937.	1938.
	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
1 Month's Contract		By Contract ...
@ £100 per annum	8 6 8	136 0 0
11 Months' Contract		
@ £208 per annum	190 3 4	
	<hr/> £198 10 0	<hr/> £136 0 0

Arrangements are now in force for tradesmen to remove their own refuse to the tips and a charge of 2/- per ton is made. The revenue from this source compared with the preceding year is as follows :

	1937.	1938.
	£34 17s. 6d.	£85 19s. 1d.

Particulars of refuse collection for this and the preceding year are given below.

	1937.	1938.
Number of calls	776,092	827,823
Tons removed	12,021	12,488
Cost per house per week	1·158 pence.	1·214 pence.
Cost per ton	6·23 shillings.	6·71 shillings.
Cost per 1000 houses per annum ...	£250 18s. 5d.	£263 0s. 8d.
Cost per 1000 population per annum	£75 10s. 9d.	£82 14s. 4d.
Total Cost	£3,745 4s. 0d.	£4,678 2s. 5d.
Weight per 1000 population per day	13 cwts. 71 lbs.	13 cwts. 58 lbs.
Tons disposed by tipping	8,064	10,858
Tons disposed by burning	3,957	1,630

During the year 118 new dustbins were provided in response to notices served by this department.

It is to be regretted that in each of these reports I have to complain that the public in general fail to exercise discretion in the use of their dustbins. Owners of property complain, and quite justly, that the practice of burning refuse in the dustbins still continues, thereby causing rapid deterioration and reducing the normal life of the dustbins very considerably. The practice

of depositing wet refuse in the bins and leaving the lids off in wet weather is still prevalent, thus making the complete emptying of the dustbins difficult, and in warm weather giving rise to offensive odours, and in many cases necessitating the banging of bins on the ledges of the vans, causing considerable damage and indentation of the dustbins.

The major portion of house and trade refuse is disposed of by controlled tipping, and this is being carried out on the Upton Court land belonging to the Council. This land is low lying and is being levelled up where there is sufficient depth to enable tipping to be carried out satisfactorily. It has been found necessary to culvert the open ditch running between the two meadows in order to prevent ultimate pollution of the ditch which discharges into the river Thanies. It is expected that the erection of the new Refuse Destructor, which is to be commenced shortly, when installed and operating, will confine controlled tipping to trade refuse only.

During the year the refuse was disposed of as follows :

Pumping Station, Incineration ...	...	1,630 tons.
Hurworth Road Tip ...	...	5,633 tons.
Lascelles Tip ...	...	5,225 tons.
		<hr/> 12,488 tons.

Waste Paper Salvage.

The Council has contracted with the Paper Mills for the purchase of this commodity at the following prices : Baled newspaper 32/6 per ton, cardboard and mixed paper 30/- per ton.

	1937.	1938.
Paper collected and baled ...	200 tons. 6 cwts.	228 tons. 12 cwts.
Revenue ...	£318 8s. 4d.	£365 6s. 4d.
Expenditure ...	£177 5s. 10d.	£183 2s. 0d.
<hr/> BALANCE	<hr/> £141 2s. 6d.	<hr/> £182 4s. 4d.

There is still a tremendous amount of clean paper and cardboard in the dustbins and if all householders would only trouble to keep this separate and place same by the side of their dustbins, our paper collection would easily be doubled. I would appeal for the co-operation of every ratepayer in this respect, at the same time emphasising the point that the revenue from the sale of all baled paper and cardboard is returned to the ratepayers.

(iii) SANITARY INSPECTION OF THE AREA.

The following tables show :

- (a) The nature and number of inspections made during the year.
- (b) The sanitary defects found and dealt with.
- (c) The nature and number of defects dealt with upon service of notice upon owner or occupier.
- (d) The number of notices served.

(a) Summary of Inspections.

Dwelling-houses inspected on Complaint	...	...	...	818
Housing and Town Planning Acts	...	...	...	111
Visits re Infectious Disease Cases	...	...	...	228
Factories and Workshops	...	...	...	154
Bakehouses	...	...	...	49
Slaughter-houses	...	...	...	1038
Meat and Food Shops	...	...	...	67
Dairies, Cowsheds and Milkshops	...	...	...	131
Re-inspections and visits to works in progress	...	...	...	2714
Refuse Removal	...	...	...	107
Tips	...	...	...	378
Petroleum Acts	...	...	...	20
Rats and Mice Destruction Order	...	...	...	89
Drains Tested	...	...	...	4
Miscellaneous	...	...	...	223
Shops Acts	...	...	...	1232
Smoke Observations	...	...	...	27
Housing Overcrowding Act	...	...	...	329
Private Slaughter	...	...	...	30
Markets	...	...	...	9
Houses disinfected	...	...	...	214
Wells, etc.	...	...	...	56
				8028

(b) Sanitary Defects.

In the following table the defects found and dealt with under the Housing Acts, Public Health Acts and other Enactments are summarised.

Defective roofs	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	59
Gutters, etc.	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	52
Defective W.C.'s (pans, cisterns, structures, etc.)	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	61
To provide W.C.'s	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Dirty premises	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	51
Defective floors	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	43
Defective internal walls and ceilings	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	77
Defective external walls	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	35
Defective coppers, grates, etc.	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	56
Overcrowding	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	10
							Carried forward	445

(d) Letters and Notices sent out.

Letters ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	149
Preliminary Notices ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	471
Secondary Notices ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	48
Statutory Notices under Public Health Acts ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	14
Preliminary Notices, Sec. 9, Housing Act, 1936	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	75
Statutory Notices, Sec. 9, Housing Act, 1936	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	5
								Total	762

(iv) SHOPS ACT 1934.

This Act has now been in operation for over four years and deals with the health and comfort of shop assistants. The Council being the Authority under the Act for Hours of Closing, etc., obviates duplication of inspection. The shops generally conform with the Act, and this applies to the many new premises erected since the passing of the Act.

(v). SMOKE ABATEMENT.

Twenty-five smoke observations of half-hour periods have been taken during the year in connection with the various factories, chiefly on the Trading Estate, and excessive periods of smoke emission are set out below :

2 cases	15 minutes dense smoke emitted in half-hour period.
1 case	12 minutes dense smoke emitted in half-hour period.
1 case	11 minutes dense smoke emitted in half-hour period.
4 cases	10 minutes dense smoke emitted in half-hour period.
2 cases	9 minutes dense smoke emitted in half-hour period.
1 case	8 minutes dense smoke emitted in half-hour period.
3 cases	7 minutes dense smoke emitted in half-hour period.
1 case	6 minutes dense smoke emitted in half-hour period.
2 cases	4 minutes dense smoke emitted in half-hour period.

In the remaining eight cases, there were no grounds for complaint.

Seven preliminary notices were served, and only in one instance was it necessary to serve statutory notice. This was in connection with one firm whose record is shown in the first four instances as set out above, and the nuisance was abated without having to take further action. The chief causes of this smoke nuisance can safely be summarised as follows :

- (a) Small vertical boilers overworked.
- (b) Unsuitable type of coal.
- (c) Faulty stoking arising from stoker being employed on other jobs and allowing fires to get too low.

(vi) FACTORIES AND WORKSHOPS.

Five complaints from H.M. Inspector of Factories have received attention. These were in respect of:

- 1 Factory with sanitary convenience in dirty condition.
- 1 Cellulose not stored in accordance with regulations.
- 1 Factory with no separate sanitary convenience for females.
- 1 Factory with no intervening ventilated space to sanitary convenience.
- 1 Factory with no screen to sanitary conveniences.

Fifty-seven certificates were granted in respect of provision of means of escape in case of fire. 154 inspections of these premises were made and one cause for complaint was found, *viz.*:

Factory in an uncleanly condition.

This defect was remedied upon the serving of the requisite notice upon the responsible person.

(vii) BAKEHOUSES.

There are five factory and fifteen retail bakehouses on the register and these premises are inspected regularly.

The cleansing of same is carried out every April and October and a reminder is sent to each occupier a week or two in advance of the periods with satisfactory results.

Forty-nine inspections of these premises were made during the year.

(viii) PETROLEUM CONSOLIDATED ACT, 1928.

During the year 116 licences were issued for the storage of petroleum and carbide of calcium, entailing the storage of 349,830 gallons of petroleum and 4,644 lbs. of carbide of calcium.

The following table shows the comparative figures for 1937 and 1938.

		1937.	1938.
No. of Petroleum Licences	...	101	107
No. of Carbide Licences	...	9	9
Amount of Petrol stored	...	377,960 gallons.	349,830 gallons.
Amount of Carbide stored	...	4,496 lbs.	4,644 lbs.
Total Receipts	...	£90 0s. 0d.	£92 0s. 0d.

(ix) RAG FLOCK ACTS, 1911 & 1928.

Two samples of Rag Flock were taken from a firm of upholsterers in connection with the above Acts, and submitted for analysis. Both were reported as being satisfactory and in conformity with the Acts.

(5) SCHOOLS.

During the year, a new school for senior boys was opened at Manor Park. There are now two Secondary and 17 Elementary Schools in the district. There is also a Nursery School with accommodation for 80 children at the Social Centre, and one of the Infants' Schools at Cippenham has a Nursery Class.

The majority are of recent design and construction, the ventilation, lighting and heating being satisfactory. The Sanitary arrangements are of the modern type and adequate, except that, in certain of the older schools, they are not quite up to present day requirements. The water supplies are from one or other of the three main supplies to the district.

SECTION D.

Housing Statistics for 1938.

Number of new houses erected during the year.

(a) By Private enterprise	...	872	(including 137 flats)
(b) Council Housing Scheme	...	17	
(c) Council Aged Persons Cottages	...	0	
Total	...	889	

Number of houses in course of erection at end of year:

(a) By Private enterprise	...	370	(including 84 flats)
(b) Council Housing Schemes	...	0	
Total	...	370	

Housing Estates which have been or are being laid out during 1938.

			Houses.
Wimpey's Estate off Shaggy Calf Lane	...	...	222
Glentworth Place, Salt Hill	...	...	38
Cranbourne Close, Cippenham Lane	...	...	46
Cippenham Close, Cippenham Lane	...	...	38
Harrisson's Estate, off London Road	...	...	74
Parkland Estate, off London Road	...	...	68
Lilley's Nursery Estate, Cippenham	...	...	100
Chalvey Park Gardens and Chalvey Court (flats)			36
Clifton Grove Estate (flats)	...	...	24
Montrose Avenue Estate (flats)	...	...	32

In addition to the above, Layouts have been approved and development is taking place on the following Estates:

- Castle View Estate, off London Road.
- Langley Dell Estate, off London Road.
- Hurworth Estate, off London Road.
- Hay Mill Estate, Burnham.

OVERCROWDING.—Housing Act, 1936, Part IV.

(a) (i) Number of dwellings overcrowded at end of year	...	...	...	...	...	...	84
(ii) Number of families dwelling therein	...	...	...	...	...	...	89
(iii) Number of persons dwelling therein	...	...	...	...	...	...	476
(b) Number of new cases of overcrowding reported during the year	...	...	...	...	...	...	11
(c) (i) Number of cases of overcrowding relieved during the year	...	...	...	...	...	...	26
(ii) Number of persons concerned in such cases	...	...	...	...	...	...	181

The figures below show the large amount of work carried out by the department in housing inspections throughout the year.

1. Unfit Dwelling Houses.

Inspection :

(1) Total number of dwelling-houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health and Housing Acts)	...	...	...	...	...	...	929
(a) Number of inspections for the purpose	...	...	...	...	...	...	3643
(2) Number of houses which were inspected and recorded under the Housing Consolidated Regulations, 1925 and 1932	...	...	...	...	...	...	79
(a) Number of inspections for the purpose	...	...	...	...	...	...	1764
(3) Number of dwelling-houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for habitation	...	...	...	...	...	...	12
(4) Number of dwelling-houses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-head) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation	...	...	...	...	...	...	265

2. Remedy of defects without service of formal Notice.

Number of defective dwelling-houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action of Local Authority or its Officers	167
-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----

3. Action under Statutory Powers.

A. *Proceedings under Sections 9, 10 & 16 of the Housing Act, 1936.*

(1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs	5
-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	---

(2) Number of dwelling-houses which were rendered fit after service of formal notice :

(a) By Owners	...	...	...	...	...	5
(b) By Local Authority in default of owner	...					1

B. Proceedings under the Public Health Acts.

(1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied 163

(2) Number of dwelling-houses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notices :

(a) By Owners	...	...	...	...	...	10
(b) By Local Authority in default of owner	...					0

C. Proceedings under Sections 11 & 13 of the Housing Act, 1936.

(1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made 6

(2) Number of dwelling-houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders 7

D. Proceedings under Section 12 of the Housing Act, 1936.

(1) Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were made 0

(2) Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were determined, the tenement or room having been rendered fit 0

SECTION E.

Inspection and Supervision of Food.

(a) MILK SUPPLY.

At the end of the year there were **8** Wholesale Producers and **45** Retail Purveyors of Milk on the register.

131 inspections were carried out at these premises.

Under the Milk (Special Designations) Order, 1936, the following licences were issued :

Four Dealers' licences to sell Tuberculin Tested Milk.

Two Pasteurisers' licences.

One Dealer's licence to sell Pasteurised Milk.

Three Supplementary licences to sell Tuberculin Tested Milk.

One Supplementary licence to sell Pasteurised Milk.

During the year twelve samples of Designated Milk were submitted for analysis, all of which were satisfactory.

(b) MEAT AND FOOD INSPECTION.

During the past year **1,114** inspections have been made of slaughter-houses, food shops, and markets, and **30** visits in connection with private slaughtering. **15 tons 5 cwts. 77½ lbs.** of meat and food were condemned as being unfit for human consumption. These figures show a decrease over the preceding year, and it is pleasing to report that it was not necessary to resort to legal proceedings in any single case, all the meat and food being surrendered upon the Inspectors' suggestion.

In compliance with the Slaughter of Animals Act, 1933, which the Council adopted, the mechanical stunner is in general use in the various slaughter-houses in the district. Unfortunately, this Act does not apply to the slaughter of animals on private premises, where the old method of slaughter without stunning is still carried on. Under this Act, all slaughtermen must be licensed and licences have been granted to **24** slaughtermen in the district.

There are 9 private slaughter-houses in the district, five of which are licensed and four registered. These are regularly inspected as far as possible during or immediately after the slaughtering, and the butchers, generally speaking, work in co-operation with the Department and notify the Inspector in the event of any abnormal conditions in the animals slaughtered.

Meat Regulations, 1924.

I am pleased to say that the above regulations are, generally speaking, rigidly observed by all concerned in the district.

Particulars of animals inspected and food condemned during the year.

Animals inspected after slaughter in slaughter-houses :

Oxen	...	...	...	...	330
Cows	...	...	...	...	7
Calves	...	...	...	...	243
Sheep	...	...	...	...	2,440
Pigs	...	...	...	...	12,595
				Total	<u>15,615</u>

Animals inspected after Private slaughter :

		33
	Grand Total	<u>15,648</u>

FOOD CONDEMNED.

				lbs.
Meat	...	...	...	21,615
Fish	...	...	...	348
Other Foods	...	...	...	12,274
				<u>34,237</u>

Carcases Inspected and Condemned.

	Cattle except cows.	Cows.	Calves.	Sheep and Lambs.	Pigs.
Number Inspected.	330	7	243	2240	12628
All diseases except Tuberculosis. Whole carcase condemned.	—	—	—	4	19
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned.	23	2	2	10	258
Percentage of the number inspected affected with disease other than Tuberculosis.	6.97%	28.57%	0.82%	0.625%	2.11%
Tuberculosis only. Whole carcase condemned.	—	—	—	—	11
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned.	36	2	4	—	972
Percentage of the number inspected affected with Tuberculosis.	10.91%	28.59%	1.65%	—	7.78%

SECTION F.

INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

Notifiable Diseases (other than Tuberculosis) during 1938.

TABLE I.

Showing cases notified in the various Age Groups, numbers admitted to Hospital, and Deaths, also notifications for years 1930-1937.

	Total all ages 1938	Number during Age periods						Cases admitted 65 up. to Hosp.	Total Deaths	Total Cases notified during							
		0-5	5-15	15-25	25-45	45-65	65			1937	1936	1935	1934	1933	1932	1931	1930
Small Pox ...	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Scarlet Fever ...	130	26	88	11	7	-	-	93	-	100	36	70	94	61	65	62	49
Diphtheria ...	57	10	34	5	8	-	-	57	4	5	2	26	10	6	7	37	77
Enteric Fever...	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	4	-	1	2
Puerperal Fever and Pyrexia	12	-	-	6	6	-	-	4	1	14	8	3	6	2	7	5	3
Pneumonia ...	36	4	8	5	11	5	3	4	2	33	31	12	23	29	18	25	8
Erysipelas ...	33	1	-	2	16	8	6	6	-	16	9	5	13	17	15	8	7
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	7	7	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	1	1	1	1	-	3	1	-

TABLE II.

Showing Monthly Incidence of Notifiable Infectious Diseases.

	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Apr.	May	June	July	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.
Scarlet Fever ...	12	3	-	3	7	16	9	5	29	26	18	4
Diphtheria ...	1	2	2	-	6	1	5	9	8	6	11	6
Pneumonia ...	5	7	12	1	3	1	-	-	2	2	1	2
Erysipelas ...	3	3	4	3	4	3	4	1	2	5	1	-
Puerperal Pyrexia	3	1	1	-	-	-	2	1	2	-	1	1
Enteric Fever ...	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-

TABLE III.

Showing Incidence in Wards of Borough.

Estimated Population	Burnham 7,581	Central 10,052	Chalvey 7,507	Farnham 12,469	Langley 5,495	Stoke 9,724	Upton 4,663
Scarlet Fever ...	7	25	3	58	4	28	8
Diphtheria ...	3	2	1	33	6	12	-
Pneumonia ...	-	6	-	14	2	4	8
Erysipelas ...	4	5	5	7	1	5	6
Puerperal Fever ...	3	1	4	3	-	-	1
Tuberculosis ...	5	12	5	9	2	5	1

The number of cases of **Scarlet Fever** shows an increase over previous years. The rate per 1000 population is 2.5, which is the same as the National Rate. No deaths occurred from Scarlet Fever, the rate for England and Wales being 0.36 per cent. 93 were admitted to hospital—the majority were of the prevailing mild type.

The number of cases of **Diphtheria** notified also shows an increase over the remarkably low rate since 1932: the incidence being 1.1 per 1000 population as compared with 1.6 per 1000 for England and Wales. Four cases proved fatal, giving a fatality rate of 7.02 per cent. as compared with a National Rate of 4.5 per cent. Of the four deaths, three were due to Laryngeal Diphtheria. One a child of 10, died three hours after admission to hospital; one aged 13 months died after a Tracheotomy had been performed, 48 hours subsequent to admission to hospital; one case of Laryngeal type died suddenly at home; the fourth aged 7 years, was a Faucial Diphtheria with severe toxæmia. He died in hospital 6 days after admission.

Under the County Council scheme, parents, who so desire, may have their children protected from Diphtheria by Immunisation at the Welfare Centres free of charge. Three injections of T.A.F. are given at fortnightly intervals.

As regards the provision of Antitoxin, supplies are kept at the Council Offices and issued to Medical Practitioners, who can also in emergency or at night obtain it at the Slough Police Station.

The following table shows the incidence of **Scarlet Fever** and **Diphtheria** per 1000 population of Slough and England and Wales for the years 1932—1938.

Year	DIPHTHERIA		SCARLET FEVER	
	Slough	E. & W.	Slough	E. & W.
1932	0.19	1.1	1.5	3.7
1933	0.16	1.2	1.6	3.1
1934	0.26	1.6	2.4	2.1
1935	0.60	1.6	1.7	2.9
1936	0.04	1.39	0.8	2.53
1937	0.10	1.49	2.0	2.33
1938	1.13	1.6	2.5	2.5

One case of Cerebro-Spinal Meningitis was notified—in a girl of 19. She was admitted to the Isolation Hospital with marked signs of Meningitis and in an unconscious condition. The Cerebro-Spinal fluid was purulent and contained large numbers of Meningococci. The patient was treated with Prontosil intra-

thecally and Anti-meningococcal serum given intra-muscularly. Within 24 hours after the commencement of treatment she had recovered consciousness and Prontosil was continued orally. She made an uneventful and complete recovery. The serological examination, which was kindly carried out by the Ministry of Health Laboratories, showed the organisms to be of Group I. type. The immediate contacts were swabbed and the patient's fiancé was found to be positive—also Group I. in type.

No primary vaccination or re-vaccination was performed under the Public Health (Small Pox Prevention) Regulations by the Medical Officer of Health.

ARRANGEMENTS FOR DISINFECTION.

Steam disinfection of bedding, etc., after the ordinary cases of infectious diseases such as Diphtheria and Scarlet Fever has been discontinued. Fumigation of the room and contents is however still done and the householder is supplied with a printed slip giving directions for a thorough ventilation and cleansing of the house.

TUBERCULOSIS.

TABLE SHOWING NEW CASES AND MORTALITY.

NEW CASES.

Age Periods	Primary Notifications.				From Death Returns.				DEATHS.			
	Respiratory.		Non- respiratory.		Respiratory.		Non- respiratory.		Respiratory.		Non- respiratory.	
	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
0 -	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
1 -	—	—	1	—	—	—	1	—	—	1	—	—
5 -	—	—	2	1	—	—	1	1	—	—	1	1
15 -	—	—	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
25 -	3	4	2	1	—	—	5	1	—	—	6	1
35 -	5	10	—	—	—	—	3	—	—	3	4	—
45 -	3	1	—	1	3	2	—	—	—	1	3	—
55 -	4	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	—	—	—
65 up	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
TOTAL	15	17	6	4	3	11	2	1	6	14	2	1

Phthisis death rate 0.4 per 1000
 County rate for Urban Districts 0.3 per 1000

No action has been taken under the Public Health (Prevention of Tuberculosis) Regulations, 1925, or under Section 172 of the Public Health Act, 1936.

I am, Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

V. A. T. SPONG,

Medical Officer of Health.

